



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX**

**75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105**

October 25, 2006

Helen Kalin Klanderud  
Mayor, City of Aspen  
130 South Galena Street  
Aspen, CO 81611-1975

Dear Ms. Klanderud:

Thank you for your letter requesting that the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, extend the time for submitting public comments on the proposed Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Permit for the proposed Desert Rock Energy Facility. The three month public comment period commenced on July 27, 2006, and will close on Friday, October 27, 2006.

We have carefully considered your request to extend the public comment period, as well as similar requests by others. We have decided to extend the public comment period through November 13, 2006. All comments must be received by that date.

Several of the requests for an extension of the public comment period indicated that the potential release of a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) later this year might provide information that would be pertinent to the proposed PSD Permit. As stated at our public workshops, EPA views the EIS process as separate from the PSD permitting process. However, when the draft EIS for the Desert Rock Energy Facility is released, EPA will consider any requests to reopen the public comment period if we have not yet issued our Response to Comments and reached a final PSD permit decision. If you wish to request a limited reopening of the public comment period when the draft EIS for this project is released, please submit a new request with an explanation why you feel it would be warranted to my office at that time.

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process on the proposed PSD Permit. If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 972-3974 or Robert Baker of my staff at (415) 972-3979.

Sincerely,

Gerardo C. Rios  
Chief, Permits Office  
Air Division